1995-2004 and recent assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by the CGWB, NABARD and the State Government have indicated significant decline (more than 20 cm. per year) in ground water levels in some parts of 16 districts of the State of Punjab viz. Amritsar, Bhatinda, Faridkot, Fatehgarhsahib, Ferozepur, Gurdaspur, Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Ludhiana, Mansa, Moga, Nawanshahar, Patiala, Ropar and Sangrur, which has caused hardship to farmers.

(c) "Water" being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to formulate plans for augmenting water resources. The CGWB has, however, provided technical assistance to the State of Punjab to implement various schemes for augmentation of water resources. It has also implemented a Central Sector Scheme for Study of Recharge to Ground Water in the country during the VIII & Five Year Plans. Under this scheme, a total of 17 demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water were taken up in Punjab, for which a fund of Rs. 361.92 lakh alongwith technical assistance was provided to the implementing Agencies of the State Government of Punjab.

Setting up of Central Water Management Body

732. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning a new Central Water Management Body to oversee water usage and entitlement, besides overseeing projects, treaties and disputes over water;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the status of the proposal; and

(c) whether this proposal is in response to a recent World Bank report citing demand for water in India to far exceed supplies by 2020?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in Maharashtra

733. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have approved a proposal for setting up a Water Regulatory Authority for water management in Maharashtra; and